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At the Turn of the Millenium, A Library Development Time-Line

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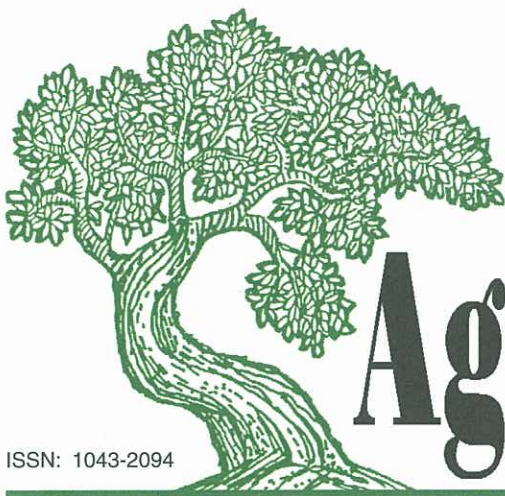
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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

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At the Turn of the Millennium, A Library Development Time-Line

by Elisabeth Knight (Extended Campus Services Librarian,
Western Kentucky University Libraries)

Today the library hums with computers, copiers and all the modern conveniences to make research and scholarship quick, easy, and as painless as possible. As recently as two decades ago, library users had to go through indexes for the information they needed in book form, which had to be gone through by hand, entry by entry, year by year. Nowadays, copy machines save a lot of time for students since they can make a copy of the material they want and go away to write their paper. But at one time, students had to stay in the library with the materials that didn't circulate, taking notes by hand. Modern electronic databases and the copier are just two of the enormous advances which have changed the way the library has been used. Consider some of the other kinds of changes that had to occur to make the library as it is today:

Circa 284 B.C. Alexandrian Library was founded by Ptolemy I Solter, prototype of national libraries throughout the world.



If Rumors Were Horses

head spin. How to keep up with it all?

Well, the minute that the **Charleston Conference** was over—always a low time for me—I got a cheery phone call from **Fred Philipp** (Blackwell's)! He always makes me smile. Anyway, Fred said that he wasn't at the **Charleston Conference** because he broke his ankle of all things. Fred is back at work but using a cane. Break a leg, Fred!

And speaking of Fred. We have a new com-

Late 13th, 14th and 15th Centuries

First time chains were used to secure books as an alternative to securing them in cupboards or rooms to prevent theft of the scarce and valuable materials. Typically, chains were attached to a brass clip on one of the wooden covers.

Bodleian Library unchained the last of its books in 1448.

First known abstracts in the modern sense were the summaries of 36 books (chapters) of Pliny's *Naturalis Historia*, written by the author to save the time of Emperor Titus.

First introduction of wall shelving on a large scale at the **Library of Escorial** in Spain.

Edinburgh established first known circulating library.

Since 1830

There has been Indexing and Abstracting for every major subject discipline.

Microforms were invented. Not used widely

in libraries until the 1930s when quality film and equipment first became widely available.

First Periodical Index, **William Frederick Poole's Index to Periodical Literature**.

Congress established the **Government Printing Office**.

Melvil Dewey published the first edition of *Dewey Classification* in Amherst, Mass.

Congress passed "New Printing Act of 1895" creating the GPO's **Superintendent of Documents** division.

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Reference service as we know began, based on a paper delivered by **Samuel Swett Green** of the Worcester (Mass.) Library on assisting the public.

September 1876 — the first issue of *Library Journal* was published

Interlibrary Loan — the basics of ILL as we know it were put forth in a letter to the editor in *Library Journal* concerning standardizing the practice of Interlibrary cooperation, until this point a non-formalized arrangement of lending parts of a collection.

Development of steel bookends.

Appearance of modern book stacks. **Bernard Richardson Green** designed and patented the book stack (with adjustable shelves), built in a framework of vertical and horizontal steel supports for the **Library of Congress**.

Herman Hollerith created a punch card tabulating machine for the U.S. Census and founded the company that will become **IBM**. Technically, his creation is a version of the first computer.

First use of a single card catalog tray.

Browne System for a circulating collection was used for the first time at the **Newark Public Library**. The Browne System became the model for public library circulating systems, involving use of book pocket, book card (with title, call number, and author), date due slip, and a borrower's card.

First appearance of a card catalog cabinet.

James C.M. Hanson and **Charles Martel** began developing **Library of Congress Classification** system.

Late 1880s

Accessioning began, now better known to librarians as a shelflist

Early 1900s

A forerunner of the modern bookmobile developed by **Mary Lemist Titcomb** of the **Washington County Library**, Hagerstown, Maryland, when she designed the first book wagon (pulled by horses) to be used in the U.S. to deliver library services to people.

First version of cataloging rules concerning author and title entries. Used by both **British** and **American Library Associations**.

Formal adoption of GPS's Librarian, **Adelaide Hasse's**, invention, the **SuDoc Classification** system. Also first year of the *Monthly Checklist of State Documents*.

Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) first appeared with the title, *Subject Headings Used in the Dictionary Catalogues of the Library of Congress*.

Microform materials were suddenly pos-

sible due to the development of Recordak filming equipment (originally designed to film bank checks). The planetary camera is put into use to film newspapers and journals.

A **Hollerith** punch card circulation system invented by **Ralph Parker**.

Dissertation Abstracts begins.

First electronic digital computer built. It was the size of a room.

Thermofax (diffusive transfer reversal) appeared for the first time.

Electrostatic equipment, better known as copy machines, were made commercially available by **Xerox**.

Microchip invented.

The first commercial mainframe computer appears, the **IBM System/360**.

AACRI *The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* published. The **AACRI** was a culmination of more than 80 years of efforts to arrive at a body of rules governing bibliographical control of library materials.

MARC Format - distribution of machine readable form by **Library of Congress**.

DIALOG was developed by **Lockheed Missiles and Space Co.**, an online search system.

A network of university computers, known as **ARPA Net**, formed. ARPA stands for Advanced Research Project Agency, an agency formed in 1957 to coordinate research.

UNIX, an operating system, created by **Bell Labs**, allowing computers to work across platforms.

CLSI (Computer Library Systems, Inc.) pioneered the first online circulation system.

Online age began when *Index Medicus* offered coverage under the name **MEDLINE**.

OCLC began a computer-based shared cataloging system.

The first personal computer kit, the **Altair 8800**, appeared.

The **Apple II** computer created by **Steve Jobs** and **Steve Wozniak**.

The **MODEM** (modulator-demodulator) created by programmer **Ward Christensen**, which allows PCs to talk over phone lines.

Philips and **Sony** arrived at standards for new invention they have developed, the CD.

IBM launched its PC.

Audio CDs first introduced to the United States by **Philips** and **Sony** after appearing the previous year in Japan and Europe.

Introduction of **Macintosh** computers.

The first appearance of **CD-ROM** products in libraries. Three bibliographic databases, **Library Corporation's BiblioFile**, **SilverPlatter's ERIC** and **PsycLit**, and **Information Access Corporation's InfoTrac** heralded

the age of electronic data retrieval in libraries.

ARPA Net renamed the **Internet**.

Tim Berners-Lee created an Internet protocol called the **World Wide Web**.


Early 1990s

The first point and click Web browsers appeared.

LCSH and **LC** cataloging data were accessible online through the Internet.

CNET was launched.

Internet became available on cable through **WebTV**.

Libraries, as with all living entities, undergo a constant process of change, and the new millennium is sure to usher in many more. The library's role of making materials available has been one of the most important contributions ever made to human culture and technology and will continue to do so. Although libraries are having to adapt and evolve as institutions, and although information may now be available in many other media besides that of books, the focus of libraries will continue to be serving the public's information needs. Despite much speculation to the contrary, books, librarians and libraries, will be around for millennia to come. 

NB: Elisabeth Knight is an Assistant Professor and extended Campus Librarian at Western Kentucky University Libraries. She has a M.A. in Literature and an MSLS from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

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